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RAISE CHICKENS

HELP FEED YOURSELF



A YARD THAT WORKS FOR THE NATION

KEEP A FLOCK OF HENS

SET THE BACK YARD TO WORK

Every true American is asking, "How can I best do my part to help win the war?" One of the means to this end is to set the back yard to work. Those who have suitable land are cultivating vegetable gardens to help increase the food supply. There are, however, many back yards not suitable for the making of a garden which may be profitably utilized for back yard poultry keeping. In every household, no matter how economical the housewife, there is a certain amount of table scraps and kitchen waste which has feeding value, but which, if not fed, finds its way into the garbage pail. Poultry is the only class of domestic animals which is suitable for converting this waste material, right where it is produced in the city, into wholesome and nutritious food in the form of eggs and poultry meat. A small number of chickens can be kept in almost any back yard.

If poultry houses are not available, hens can be housed at small expense in piano boxes or other large packing cases. Their eggs should make a substantial addition to the family food supply. Each hen in her pullet year should produce 10 dozen eggs. The average size of the back yard flock should be at least 10 hens. Thus each flock would produce in a year 100 dozen eggs, which at the conservative value of 25 cents a dozen would be worth \$25. By keeping a back yard poultry flock the family would not only help in reducing the cost of living, but would have eggs of a quality and freshness which are often difficult to obtain.

STUDY TO SERVE

Poultry keeping, although a comparatively simple undertaking, will be successful in direct proportion to the study and labor which are expended upon it. There is an abundance of good material on the subject, but "Back-Yard Poultry Keeping" (Farmers' Bulletin 889), a recent publication of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, contains all the general directions needed to make a start. It tells how to overcome the objections to keeping poultry in the city, what kinds of fowls to keep, the size of the flock computed according to the size of

the back yard, gives definite instructions as to the best kinds of chicken houses to build, with bill of materials for same, directions as to feeding the fowls, hatching and raising chicks, prevention of diseases and pests, and many other matters essential to the success of the undertaking. Another helpful bulletin of a general character is "Hints to Poultry Raisers" (Farmers' Bulletin 528). This gives a great deal of useful and authoritative information within a very small compass.

CHOICE OF A VARIETY

Successful poultrymen agree that the male at the head of the flock should always be pure bred, even if the whole flock is not. Certain breeds are best for egg production, and certain others for meat production, while still another class contains the general-purpose breeds. These classes are carefully described and illustrated in two bulletins of the Department of Agriculture, "Standard Varieties of Chickens" (Farmers' Bulletins 806 and 898).

HOUSES AND NESTS

If a better grade of housing is desired than that afforded by piano boxes and packing cases, full directions may be obtained from "Poultry House Construction" (Farmers' Bulletin 574). If one desires to keep records of the egg production of the individual hens, trap nests are a great convenience. These nests are so arranged that the hen is confined after entering until released by an attendant. Full directions for making them are contained in Farmers' Bulletin 682, entitled "A Simple Trap Nest for Poultry."

INCUBATION AND BROODING

Brooding with hens is the simplest and easiest way to raise a few chickens. Successful natural rearing of chickens requires convenient facilities, regular attention, and often tries one's patience, while artificial methods require a larger investment, close attention, and more care, but are more commonly used when large numbers of chickens are raised.

Full directions as to both methods are contained in "Natural and Artificial Brooding of Chickens" (Farmers' Bulletin 624) and "Natural and Artificial Incubation of Hens' Eggs" (Farmers' Bulletin 585).

HOW TO GET INFORMATION

BULLETINS

All the bulletins mentioned in this text are available for free distribution and may be obtained by writing to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Other free poultry bulletins of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are the following Farmers' Bulletins: No. 530, "Important Poultry Diseases"; No. 656, "Community Egg Circle"; No. 684, "Squab Raising"; No. 697, "Duck Raising"; No. 767, "Geese"; No. 791, "Turkey Raising"; No. 801, "Mites and Lice on Poultry"; No. 849, "Capons and Caponizing"; No. 858, "The Guinea Fowl"; No. 830, "Marketing Eggs by Parcel Post."

Many excellent publications on poultry raising are issued by the states for distribution to their own citizens. An inquiry addressed to your state agricultural college will bring you information as to what has been issued by your own state.

YOUR COUNTY AGENT

Your county agent can supplement printed advice by suggestions as to the adaptation of directions to your local conditions. If there are young people in your household your county agent would no doubt like to enroll them in the clubs for poultry raising which are carried on in most of the states. This work is described in "The Organization of Boys' and Girls' Poultry Clubs" (Farmers' Bulletin 562).

BOOKS

Although the authoritative information contained in the Government and state publications is of the highest value, it should be supplemented, if possible, by reading at least a few of the many helpful books on the subject of poultry. Ask for them at your Public Library.

TO KNOW HOW IS TO SUCCEED

